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New CIA charge

A new and particularly unseemly charge against the CIA has been added to the record compiled by the Congress, the Rockefeller commission, and the press. The handling of such charges should provide an early test of whether incoming CIA director Theodore Sorensen will fulfill his task of restoring public confidence in the agency while maintaining and improving its intelligence capability.

Mr. Sorensen must get to the bottom of the allegations reported by Newsday that linked the CIA to the introduction into Cuba of a virus supposed to cause disease in pigs. Soon an outbreak of the disease led to the slaughter of half a million pigs. This was two years after President Nixon had prohibited biological and chemical warfare.

Whether this episode is confirmed or not, steps must be taken to ensure that the CIA is never party to such reprehensible acts.